

Message Text

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TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FEBRUARY 25. FOR IOP/M. TODAY'S MORNING PAPERS, HIGH CIRCULATION LA PRENSA GRAFICA AND EL DIARIO DE HOY GAVE PROMINENT INTERIOR PAGE COVERAGE TO UPI STORY "KISSINGER REITERATES U.S. SUPPORT OF LATIN AMERICA" AND "KISSINGER ENDS TOUR OF LATIN COUNTRIES IN COSTA RICA." THE ITEM QUOTED THE SECRETARY OF STATE AS SAYING THE UNITED STATES IS READY TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO BEGIN CONSULTATIONS ON A COLOMBIAN PROPOSAL TO EXPAND TRADE WITH ITS SOUTHERN NEIGHBORS. MR. KISSINGER, SAID THE STORY, OPENLY CRITICIZED CUBA, WITHOUT MENTIONING THE COUNTRY, EXPRESSING THAT RECENT EVENTS HAVE SHOWN THAT FOREIGN ADVENTURISM IS NOT DEAD AND THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT TOLERATE A CHALLENGE TO TREATY PRINCIPLES OF NON-INTERVENTION IN THIS HEMISPHERE. THE STORY QUOTED EXTENSIVELY MR. KISSINGER'S RESUME OF HIS IMPRESSIONS OF HIS TOUR OF LATIN AMERICA. LA PRENSA GRAFICA CARRIED A REUTER LATIN FEATURE INCORMING SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD PLEDGED AMERICAN AID FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF GUATEMALA.

EL DIARIO DE HOY PICKED UP AN ACAN-EFE ITEM HEADED "KISSINGER POINTS TO THE DANGER OF A CUBAN ATTACH ON CENTRAL AMERICA" AND ANOTHER STORY FROM THE SAME WIERE SERVICE STATING THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF EL SALVADOR HAD TERMED AS POSITIVE THE SAN JOSE TALKS WITH MR. KISSINGER. FOREIGN MINISTER BORGONOVO WAS QUOTED AS SAYING HE HAD SPOKEN WITH MR. KISSINGER ABOUT MAKING

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A PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF THE AMENDMENTS TO REFORM THE OAS CHARTER

AND ABOUT THE MUTUAL BENEFITS OF EXPANDING TRADE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND LATIN AMERICA. HE ALSO WAS REPORTED AS INFORMING MR. KISSINGER OF THE FEBRUARY 22 MEETING BETWEEN THE PRESIDENTS OF HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR AND ADDED THAT ALTHOUGH THE SECRETARY SHOWED INTEREST IN THE MATTER HE ABSTAINED FROM MAKING COMMENTS SINCE HE CONSIDERS IT A BILATERAL ISSUE TO BE RESOLVED DIRECTLY BY EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS. YESTERDAY'S AFTERNOON PAPERS GAVE ROUTINE TREATMENT KISSINGER VISIT COSTA RICA AND GUATEMALA, BASED ON COMMERCIAL WIRE SERVICES. THE POPULAR RADIO NEWS PROGRAM "INFORMATION VESPERTINO" HEARD DAILY AT 6:00 PM, COMMENTED ON MR. KISSINGER'S VISIT TO SAN JOSE AND STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF EL SALVADOR ACHIEVING A LARGER EXPORT QUOTE UNDER THE GSP. USIS LOCALLY-PRODUCED NEWS PROGRAMS, BROADCAST BY TWO NATIONAL RADIO CHAINS CARRIED NUMEROUS ITEMS CONCERNING MR. KISSINGER'S VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA. GRIFFITHS

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